



Illustration by Kaye Thorne;
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CHRYSOTHAMNUS PARRYI* SSP *MONTANUS **PARRY'S MOUNTAIN RABBITBRUSH**

Centennial Rabbitbrush is a low-growing, highly branched shrub 10-20 cm high with stems that have a thick, felt-like covering of white hairs. The alternate, linear, hairless leaves are 2-3.5 cm long and 1-2 mm wide, the uppermost overtopping the inflorescence. The inflorescence is composed of one to a few composite flower heads, that are each 10-11.5 mm long. Each head consists of 4 to 12 flowers that are surrounded by a series of bracts that overlap in vertical rows. The bracts are oval to lance-shaped with long pointed green tips, and have hairs on their margins. The flowers are all alike with yellow tubular corollas, 9-10 mm long, that are encircled at their bases by numerous slender bristles. The achenes are about 8 mm long. Flowering in August - September.

The only other Montana *CHRYSOTHAMNUS* with stems covered by white felt (revealed under close inspection as matted hairs) is *C. NAUSEOSUS*. It differs by having white hairy leaves and inflorescences that overtop the leaves. The small shrub *HAPLOPAPPUS MACRONEMA* SSP. *LINEARIS* is also similar and has stems covered by white felt, but differs by having glandular hairs on the leaves and involucre bracts.